



Jobs for America's Graduates

A Report to the CSA and the Board of Directors

March/April/May 2016

Class of 2015 - Best Results in Our History!

After 12 months of intensive follow-up services that concluded on May 31, 2016, JAG released the results achieved by the Class of 2015. JAG Job Specialists continue to support graduates for a full year after graduation, to ensure that they successfully transition from school to employment, higher education, or both. About half of JAG graduates do both.

Of particular importance is the high graduation rate, accomplished under the most demanding graduation requirements in American history. In addition,

JAG Job Specialists continue to support graduates for a full year after graduation

JAG achieved all five performance outcomes in the same year. This is the first time for that accomplishment in our 35-

year history. JAG serves the most under-employed and disadvantaged segment of the most unemployed part of the population, with only about 30% even being in the labor market.

These results were achieved in over 1,000 school settings across 32 states, serving 52,000 young people, and are a compelling testimony to the extraordinary commitment of the Job Specialists, who work with young people determined to succeed in education and employment against the most daunting of odds. It is nothing short of remarkable.

We are sharing results with the nation's leaders in government, education, communities, and each of our Affiliates, highlighting the results of each state organization to current and future funders, new schools, parents, and

young people.

The JAG Board of Directors warmly congratulates all of the State Affiliates and Specialists in the National Network, who deliver on the promise for the young people who invest so much of their futures with us.

Results of the JAG Class of 2015

Graduation Rate	94%
Positive Outcomes Rate	82% (Work, college, or a combination)
Job Placement Rate	61%
Full-Time Jobs Rate	73%
Full-Time Placement Rate	89% (Work, college, or a combination, equal to 40 hours a week)
Further Education Rate	43%

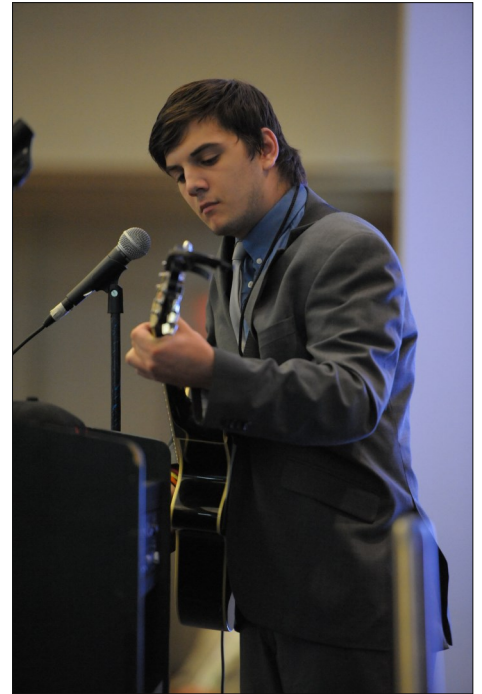
The 2016 National Training Seminar - Looking Good!

The 2016 National Training Seminar (NTS) is coming together well, with what appears to be a good turnout for both Pre-NTS (275) and NTS (425), in Orlando (July 11-15).

We will spend a good deal of our time on the new Project-Based Learning modules as new components of the JAG National Employability Skills Curriculum. These modules are a proven mean of greatly enhancing the engagement of our students; thus increasing their success in learning. We will also have a high-priority focus on the Out-of-School Program Application of the JAG Model, given its major expansion, as noted elsewhere, as well as a great range of Best Practice

workshops being developed by some of our most successful teams around the country, and **425** members of the frontline team of the JAG National Network will be there to share their experience and learn from others.

We are delighted that Carolyn Warner, one of the Founders of Jobs for America's Graduates, will be with us, along with a number of other speakers and an array of leaders from our employer organizations, including Microsoft, McDonald's, MyQVO, ECMC Group, EverFi, and Tyson Foods.



Governor John Bel Edwards Joins the Board of Directors

We are delighted to report that Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has been unanimously elected to the Board of Directors. Eleven Governors now serve on the national Board – the most Governors serving on any Board of Directors in the nation.

Governor Edwards has already demonstrated his commitment to both JAG and JAG-Louisiana, as he convened a meeting of members of his Cabinet, leaders of the Louisiana Department of Education, leaders from JAG-Louisiana, and JAG President Ken Smith and Vice President Janelle Duray to

discuss funding for expansion of the JAG-Louisiana program this year. The Governor's goal is to expand the program from its current 65 schools funded by the State (four others funded on their own) to at least 100 schools for the 2016-17 school year. This increase will make Louisiana second only to Indiana as the largest State Affiliate.

The Governor has visited JAG programs in Louisiana to meet with students. He also attended the Spring Meeting of the Board in Jackson, Mississippi with his First Lady and Chief of Staff to learn more about the work of JAG, and he intends to be with us at the end-of-year Board meeting on November



10. We extend our special thanks to the Governor for his enthusiastic and determined focus on growing JAG-Louisiana.



JAG-Louisiana student and Specialist

2015 Audit and Tax Return

The auditors are concluding their work on the audit of JAG's 2015 accounts, and will soon begin work on the tax return. The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors will meet in July by telephone with the auditors and without the participation of management to review the results and the Form

990 tax return. Once the Committee has approved the tax return, we will forward it to the Board of Directors for a 10-day review period, as always, before submitting it to the IRS. As a 501(c)(3) organization, most of the tax return will eventually be made public.


Please let us know any questions.

Annie E. Casey Foundation Partnership

JAG was honored to be one of only two organizations invited by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to submit a proposal to the Corporation for National and Community Service for boosting employment success rates for out-of-school youth. The five-year, \$5 million grant provides matching support to organizations who serve challenged out-of-school youth, including high school dropouts and significant numbers of foster care, adjudicated, and otherwise disconnected youth and young adults.

Funding is available to bring the JAG program to seven sites that were a particular fit with the priorities of the Foundation.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation team and JAG's Out-of-School Technical Assistance team have begun to assess



The five year, \$5 million grant provides matching support to organizations who serve challenged, out-of-school youth.

each of the seven sites and provide the necessary support to ensure the success of the JAG Out-of-School program in those settings. A dozen or more staff members

from the sites will receive special training at the "pre-NTS" and National Training Seminar in Orlando on July 10-15.

Four of the seven sites are in states where JAG operates. They are now fully coordinated with the JAG organizations in those states. Los Angeles, New York, and Anchorage, Alaska are the three sites not connected to existing JAG organizations. Therefore, additional support is being provided to each.

Looking Ahead

We expect June to be another month of slow income. July, August, and November should be cash-positive, as we receive some of the annual affiliation fees that are due on July 1. We also hope to receive renewed support at the \$250,000 level from our very good friends at Archer Daniels Midland. The Fourth Quarter will be the greatest challenge, given the anticipated shortfall in private sector investment income noted earlier.

We are making an all-out push

to reach out to potential new donors as well as to confirm on our ongoing supporters for 2016. We are currently in positive discussions that might result in funding for the national organization, but the total will not likely be enough to offset the private sector funding shortfall. Therefore, we are stepping up our search for new prospects, and we continue to ask for your help in identifying organizations who might assist us. We are grateful to Governor Engler for arranging a meeting with the CEO of ECMC to consider a

possible significant grant, and for his outreach to leaders from Target and Medtronics.

Former Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, a long-standing supporter of JAG who now serves on the Boards of Aetna, T. Rowe Price and Synchrony, has reached out to the philanthropic and hiring leaders of those companies on behalf of JAG and is arranging for us to provide presentations on JAG and explore possible hiring and financial support opportunities.

In Memoriam

Governor and Senator George Voinovich



The entire JAG organization deeply mourns the loss of US Senator George Voinovich, who also previously served as Governor of Ohio, Mayor of Cleveland, and as a great leader and Chair of the JAG Board of Directors.

Governor Voinovich led JAG's largest State Affiliate ever in Ohio. At the time, Jobs for Ohio Graduates operated in 350 schools, serving more than 23,000 youth, with the largest state appropriation in our history - \$12 million – which further leveraged significant local funding from schools, workforce boards, and others.

As Governor of Ohio, US Senator, and in retirement, Voinovich was *relentless* in advocating for JAG. As late as two weeks before his passing, he was on the phone “making the case” for Jobs for America's Graduates to Governors and other state leaders.

A favorite – and completely true – story concerns his actions at a National Governors Association meeting some years ago when he served as our Chair. A couple of Governors clearly had been difficult to reach about JAG. As a meeting broke up and they headed for the men's room, Governor Voinovich immediately surged in front of them, blocked their entrance, folded his arms and said, “Let's talk about JAG.” The Governors quickly agreed to talk with him about JAG – if he would just let them proceed to their destination first.

Having worked with George Voinovich for more than 2½ decades, we also knew him as a genuine public servant. As Mayor, he turned Cleveland around after some of its most difficult days. As Governor, he brought Ohio to a new level of economic and individual success. He served as a great leader in the US Senate, highly respected and personally engaged with leaders from both parties.

America and Jobs for America's Graduates are both so much better off having had George Voinovich as one of its leaders.

News from Around the Network

Major grant from Entergy: Following the commitment at the Spring Meeting of the JAG Board of Directors by Leo Denault (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Entergy and member of the JAG Board), Entergy has provided \$75,000 incentive grants to JAG State Affiliates in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi to add programs and provide support for Career Development Conferences and other student engagement activities...

Myrna Bell (US Human Resources Field Business Lead at McDonald's) has been elected to the national Board of Directors and McDonald's, as the Network's largest employer, will be providing a special workshop on career opportunities at the July National Training Seminar. Myrna also arranged for the JAG National staff to make a presentation to the national team of Regional HR leaders of McDonald's to further expand McDonald's hiring managers' awareness of JAG and increase their engagement in the program...

Jobs for Missouri Graduates has now achieved its 20-school goal for program implementation for the upcoming school year, up from six schools two years ago...

Mato Standing High has been designated as the CSA representative for South Dakota. Mato has been a long-standing and highly effective Job Specialist in South Dakota and brings great experience to this leadership role, as she replaces Margo Heintert, who has retired...

Mike Tucker, who was part of the JAG organization in Michigan serving out-of-school youth, is now Executive Director of the **Coastal Workforce Investment Board** in Savannah, Georgia. Shortly after he took over, he contacted us to inquire about the implementation of the Out-of-School program in four new sites – the first in Georgia...

Growth of the Out-of-School Program Application of the JAG

POWERFUL TRENDS ARE AT WORK in focusing new national, governmental, and private sector resources on the nation's out-of-school/dropout population, which has little chance for economic or personal success, absent intervention. 1.6 MILLION YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN DROP OUT OF OUR HIGH SCHOOLS EVERY YEAR, AND THAT NUMBER IS GROWING OVER TIME.

The JAG Out-of-School Program Application of the JAG Model has been successful since it started nearly 20 years ago, but at a relatively small scale – today in 36 locations in six states. Since the federal government has moved the funding of its major job training program (WIOA – the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) away from serving in-school youth and towards out-of-school youth, and since private sector organizations are beginning to shift their priorities towards this major national challenge, JAG Out-of-School Model applications are likely to be operating in 50+ locations by the end of summer.

Earlier this year, the Annie E. Casey Foundation invited JAG and one other organization to apply for a “Social Innovation Fund” grant from the federal government. This grant offers us the opportunity to improve outcomes for highly challenged out-of-school populations, specifically, foster care youth, high school dropouts and, in some cases, adjudicated youth. As an example of the growing number of organizations who wish to make use of the JAG Model, 70 organizations applied, but funding was only available for seven locations over the next three years. As a further demonstration of the demand and need for more effective solutions for this challenging population, a number of our State Affiliates have been asked by workforce investment boards to present proposals for funding. We are working to increase our ability to assist the Affiliates in implementing the JAG Out-of-School Program and provide a new set of support services to use as a means of persuading funding sources of the value of the application. The July National Training Seminar will focus on these efforts.

Contact Us

Jobs for America's Graduates

National Headquarters

1729 King Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314-2720
Phone: (703) 684-9479
Fax: (703) 684-9489

- **Kenneth M. Smith**
President
- **Katherine Travis**
Senior Vice President
- **Janelle Duray**
Vice President

National Center for Evidence-Based Practices

548 Silicon Drive, Suite 101
Southlake, TX 76092
Phone: (972) 694-4486
Fax: (972) 874-0063

- **Jim Koeninger, Ph.D.**
Executive Vice President
- **Karen Koeninger**
Corporate Vice President
- **Laura Sheppard**
Chief of Staff
- **Bobby Crandall**
JAG Webmaster

Visit us on the web at
www.jag.org

